

population of this group resides in my home State of Hawaii. Filipino Americans have been in the United States since the 18th century and have been in Hawaii since 1906, when the first Filipino migrant laborers came to Hawaii to work on the sugar and pineapple plantations. Those Filipinos, their descendants, and the recent immigrants to Hawaii and America have made an indelible impact on our culture, and we should be sure to take this month to recognize the contributions of Filipino Americans.

While Filipinos have made great contributions to America, it is important that we not overlook the needs of the community, including a fair and sensible immigration policy. I chair the Immigration Task Force of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, and I will continue to fight for the needs of families within the immigration debate.

One of the major issues for the Filipino Americans and other Asian Pacific American communities is family reunification: allowing relatives of legal permanent residents, other than spouses and minor children, to immigrate legally and join their families. It can take the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as long as 23 years to even consider an application for a family member from the Philippines.

The extended family is a foundation in many of our cultures, and it provides real benefits to the greater society as well. Families often pool resources to educate children or purchase homes and establish roots in their communities. We often see extended family networks starting businesses, providing economic development and jobs. Congress must act to ensure that families who will contribute to American society are not punished by our immigration system.

The treatment of Filipinos who fought with the United States Armed Forces in World War II is also an issue of great concern for Filipino Americans and a dark spot in American History. The Philippines became a United States possession after Spain ceded it as part of the treaty ending the Spanish-American War in 1898. In 1934, Congress created a 10-year time frame for independence through the "Philippine Independence Act." However, since the Philippines remained a colonial possession until 1946 the United States retained the right to call upon military forces organized by the Philippine government into the United States Armed Forces.

On July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a military order that brought the Philippine Commonwealth Forces under the control of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. These men bravely fought with our own troops during the war, and many perished or suffered severe wounds from the battles in the western Pacific Theater. After the surrender of Japan, Congress required the Philippine Forces to continue service their service. Many helped occupy lands, many oversaw military operations, and many made the ultimate sacrifice to secure our victory in World War II. Yet, when wartime service ended formally in 1946 they did not receive the same benefits and the same treatment as other American soldiers.

Yet, for all their heroic and courageous actions, Congress passed the "Recession Act" in February 1946. This essentially denied Filipino veterans any of the benefits that their

American comrades in arms received, including full access to veterans' health care; service-connected disability compensation, non-service connected disability compensation, dependent indemnity compensation, death pension, and full burial benefits. No other group of veterans has been systematically denied these benefits. While we are nearly out of time to right this wrong this Congress, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the 111th Congress on ensuring Filipino veterans the benefits they deserve.

Filipino Americans have enriched the fabric of America, and I am proud to celebrate Filipino American Heritage Month. I look forward to continuing to work with the Filipino American community to address the needs and concerns of Filipino Americans throughout the United States.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIA UNIDA LIVING WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and service that Familia Unida Living with Multiple Sclerosis, Familia Unida, contributes throughout California's 32nd Congressional District.

Familia Unida's mission is to enlighten, educate, and unite families that are affected by Multiple Sclerosis, MS, as well as other debilitating diseases. Though originally founded to provide culturally and linguistically sensitive resources to the Latino community dealing with MS, Familia Unida's outreach now extends into the entire MS community, providing services to any who request assistance in coping with this disease. Through events such as the 5th Annual Wheelchair Wash, Familia Unida continues to bring awareness to the importance of the inclusion of all persons, especially those living with disabilities, in our lives.

Familia Unida has enhanced the quality of life for many through its extensive services in obtaining health care access, as well as providing educational resources. As Familia Unida continues to honor its founding principles of providing culturally sensitive programs and support for those living with MS, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing its valued service and commitment to the MS community.

RECOGNIZING BOB SIKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPON ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Bob Sikes Elementary School on its fiftieth anniversary.

Named after Robert L. F. Sikes, the beloved former U.S. Representative of Crestview, Florida, Bob Sikes Elementary School upholds the same values and standards as its namesake.

Serving from 1941 until 1962, Congressman Sikes is still remembered for his hard work and dedication to the area. His image continues to live on in the exemplary institutions that adopt both his name and his commitment to excellence.

For 5 decades, Bob Sikes Elementary School has influenced the academic success of its students. The school houses an exceptional faculty whose outstanding teaching capabilities have enhanced the learning opportunities for those enrolled. The school's administration is equally impressive as it expertly balances the rigorous demands of running the school. It is the countless hours of service and dedication employed by the faculty and administration that have enabled the students at Bob Sikes Elementary to attain academic excellence.

In addition to the active academic environment, Bob Sikes Elementary maintains a strong sense of community and enables each of its students to feel special. Teachers take the time to recognize and reward students' individual talents and help foster a familial feel in the classrooms. After 50 years, multiple generations of Crestview families who have attended Bob Sikes Elementary look back fondly on the school that taught them to read, to be kind to others, to count, and so many other important lessons. It is a testament to the school's academic and administrative strengths that 5 decades of families have continued to send their children to this exemplary school. It is these same strengths that ensure its continued success and the enrollment of children for decades to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Bob Sikes Elementary School on this outstanding achievement and for its exemplary service in the Okaloosa County School District.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize The Heritage Foundation on the 35th anniversary of their founding. Since 1973, Heritage has been a stalwart in promoting and educating the American people on the merits of conservative, free market principles. Their belief in the power of individual liberty, American values, and limited government is matched by their dedication to a strong national defense.

The Heritage Foundation has been intricately involved in the rise of modern conservatism. It has benefited from the strong leadership of individuals like Executive Vice President and CEO Phillip Truluck. Phil is a native of South Carolina and graduate of the University of South Carolina. Additionally, the late Tom Roe of Greenville, South Carolina, was a longtime trustee and endowed the Thomas A. Roe Institute of Economic Policy at The Heritage Foundation.

From its influence in the days of the Reagan Revolution to the Contract with America and in promoting a strong national defense and sound economic growth in the aftermath of

September 11th, I commend The Heritage Foundation for over three decades of important work to help our Nation's leaders build a stronger America.

IN HONOR OF LORENE FOSTER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Lorene Foster, who will turn 100 years young on October 20.

Lorene has been a resident of Simi Valley, California, since 1947. A real Simi Valley pioneer, she and her late husband, Chester, owned and operated the Simi Susana Airport in the east end of Simi Valley, where I kept my airplane when I was a private pilot. Lorene and Chester became my good friends.

Lorene has always been active and organized. She was involved in the Simi Valley Women's Club, PTA and served as class parent, 4-H, Campfire Girls, Bluebirds, Bridge Club, Boots and Slippers Square Dancing, Community Drama Group, Garden Club, and was a Simi Valley Hospital volunteer. Many of the groups she involved herself with she led or served as president.

Somehow, she also found time to travel around the world—twice.

Lorene still lives on her own and cares for her own finances. She still enjoys floral arranging, board games, cards, and painting. Lorene also enjoys her 3 daughters, 14 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues join my wife, Janice, and me in congratulating Lorene for 100 years of good and active living and in wishing her many more.

TRIBUTE TO CENTRAL COMMUNITY BRANCH OF THE YMCA

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful community institution in my district, the Central Community Branch of YMCA Greater Worcester.

For 144 years, the Central Community Branch of the YMCA of Central Massachusetts has worked to improve the lives of families in the Worcester community. The branch was established in 1864 to "improve the spiritual and mental condition of young men." The organization moved into its current Main Street home in Worcester in 1918, when the building was constructed. Since 1918, the building has undergone three major renovations in 1959, 1983, and 2008.

Currently, the newly renovated Main Street facility provides thousands of youth and adults with health and fitness programs, a range of classes, and sports leagues. The branch also offers the Worcester community an incredible diversity of programs in education, health, and fitness. Its Minority Achievers Program helps tutor high school children and guide them on the path to college. Its "Schools Out" programs provide hundreds of youth with safe

after-school education and recreation programs. Its summer camps in Sutton and Boylston provide families with wonderful summer programming. Its Kids on the Go program teaches children aged 8–14 how to lead a healthy lifestyle with exercise and a balanced diet.

On Thursday, October 2, 2008, the Central Community Branch of YMCA of Central Massachusetts celebrates its successful completion of the "Strength of the Team" capital campaign and its renovations through a ribbon cutting ceremony. The organization has invested \$5 million to improve the inner city beacon, allowing the community to be aware of its location. The renovation was driven by a successful capital campaign, which raised the largest gift to the branch in its entire history of \$2.2 million from the George I. Alden trust. It also was the source of the largest individual gift of \$500,000 from Gene DeFeudis. The wide support that this campaign received is tribute to the great work that the central branch does in the Greater Worcester community.

Madam Speaker, I commend this wonderful organization that brings together people from all backgrounds, cultures and religions for the purpose of improving the mind, body and spirit of all. I congratulate the staff, members and supporters of the Central Community Branch of the YMCA of Central Massachusetts for their successful "Strength of the Team" capital campaign, and I know all of my colleagues join me in thanking them for their wonderful work.

EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, today's vote reaffirms the independence of Congress and makes it clear that we will not be stamped into spending hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars in a precipitous manner. This legislation would have directed \$700 billion of the people's money to bailout rich and powerful interests who acted irresponsibly. It would have been a classic example of taking from those who have been responsible and giving it to those who have not.

We were told without this effort our country would suffer a financial calamity of historic proportion. However, Congress has spoken, and today's defeat of the bill is a rebuke of such scare tactics. These tactics made many of us even more skeptical of being rushed to act, especially when we are being asked to allocate hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars.

There were no reforms included in the bill that would have addressed the initial root causes of this financial mess, so there is no reason to believe if we passed the bill that we would not find ourselves in a similar crisis and on the edge of a similar economic abyss over and over again. The elites in the financial industry wanted us to give them a blank check. Well, that's not responsible, and it doesn't take a financial genius to predict the resulting special interests feeding frenzy. Whether this feeding would ever avert an economic debacle is yet to be seen.

Effective reform takes time, commitment, and cooperation, which were obviously not a part of this speeded up, hysteria driven proposal. I remain willing to work with all of my colleagues in the House to fix our broken financial system. In the end, this bailout proposal was socialism for the rich, or better, socialism without a human face. It deserved to be defeated.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES GIFT OF LIFE MEDAL ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud House and Senate passage by unanimous consent of H.R. 7198, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act of 2008. Representative Tubbs Jones' life ended as she lived it; by exemplifying concern for the welfare of others. She donated her organs in the waning hours of her life so that the lives of others could continue. In that spirit, this legislation creates a commemorative medal for organ donors and their families, recognizing the brave and selfless act of organ donation. It is a fitting tribute to her, and I look forward to seeing this program get up and running.

This bill is a modified version of H.R. 6950, which passed the House on September 25, 2008. We modified the bill in order to address concerns from the other body and ensure its passage.

Unfortunately, in modifying the bill, we had to delete findings included in H.R. 6950. I ask to insert these findings into the RECORD.

(1) Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones was dedicated to eliminating health disparities and protecting vulnerable populations.

(2) Through her service on the Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, she was a strong voice for those who were poor, elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, and disenfranchised.

(3) Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones' concern for others was demonstrated by the decision to donate her organs, so that as her life ended, the lives of others continued.

(4) There are currently 99,625 candidates for organ donation on the national transplant waiting list. Every 16 minutes, a new name is added to such list. Sixteen persons die each day waiting for a life saving organ transplant.

(5) Minority populations account for nearly 50 percent of those on the national transplant waiting list.

(6) Diseases that can lead to organ failure, such as hypertension and diabetes, are found more frequently in ethnic minority populations than in the general population.

(7) While minorities donate organs in proportion to their population, the rate of organ donations fails to keep pace with the need for transplants in the population. African Americans, for example, represent about 13 percent of the population and 12 percent of organ donors, but comprise roughly 23 percent of individuals on national transplant waiting list for kidney transplants.

(8) Transplantation success rates are higher when organs are matched between people